

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SUPERVISOR ROB BROWN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Rob Brown for more than 20 years of dedicated public service in Lake County on the occasion of his retirement. In his five terms as County Supervisor, he has displayed a practical, sensible approach to leadership that has endeared him to his colleagues and constituents.

A Lake County native, Supervisor Brown has made it his mission to address the most important issues facing his life-long home. In response to the devastating 2015 Valley Fire, he stepped up to lead the county's response and recovery efforts and personally oversaw the evacuation of Clearlake Riviera when law enforcement was overstrained. Never a man to leave things unfinished, he spearheaded extended land management assistance under the Benefit Zone initiative and brought volunteers together under the "1,000 Hands Project" to mitigate future wildfire risks. When the Coronavirus pandemic threatened lives and livelihoods, he once again rose to the challenge, developing plans to distribute more than \$1 million in CARES Act funding to businesses in need.

Even in more certain times, Supervisor Brown never became complacent, tirelessly pursuing projects to benefit his constituents. He was instrumental in securing private funding for the construction of the Children's Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center for the District Attorney's Office, which has gained recognition as a powerful tool to improve child welfare. Always attuned to the need to preserve our natural and historic heritage, he led the acquisition of Mt. Konocti as a County Park and the establishment of the Ely Stage Stop Agricultural Museum. Even while working diligently to accomplish these goals, Supervisor Brown made a name for himself as a uniquely humorous, compassionate community member, partner, father, and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, Supervisor Rob Brown has distinguished himself as a civic leader with integrity, intellect, and savvy. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING LESLIE LOVE

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lasting impact of the work of Michigan State Representative Leslie Love as she enters into retirement.

Over the years, I have witnessed Representative Love's hard work and commitment

to the people she serves in Michigan's Tenth House District. Rep. Love was born, raised, and educated in the City of Detroit and her community roots run deep. She is passionate in her approach to securing resources for the residents of Redford Township and the City of Detroit. As a legislator, she counts among her successes, securing financial resources that provide much-needed technology to public schools, public parks, and after school programming for young people. Rep. Love has also championed auto insurance reform, a policy that would have a profound impact on residents. Further cementing her commitment to public service, Rep. Love has connected with residents throughout the Tenth House District on countless occasions, whether it's attending community events or hosting town halls or coffee hours.

In short, Representative Leslie Love has served the public admirably. Please join me in tribute to her service.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE IOWA MASK BRIGADE

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, as millions of individuals, families, and essential workers struggle to obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required to keep them safe during these difficult times, volunteer organizations like the Iowa Mask Brigade have stepped up to provide these critical items to keep our citizens and communities safe. That is why today, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Iowa Mask Brigade as this week's Iowan of the Week.

The Iowa Mask Brigade was founded earlier this year by Connie Klug after she received a distressed call from her niece, an emergency room doctor in desperate need of PPE. Connie immediately got to work researching protective masks and found that filters were the most important feature that made them effective. Although commercial face mask filters were not available, Connie used her problem-solving skills to create her own. She began cutting furnace filters from the company 3M, the same company that produces the coveted N95 masks. Sandwiching this filter in between two layers of high-quality cotton fabric, Connie produced her first mask in a process the New York Times would later consider the best method of making homemade masks. Connie, a quilter, enlisted the help of two of her seamstress friends, who enlisted the help of their friends, and an organization instantly formed as volunteers coalesced around one simple idea: to provide masks to those who need them.

In their first month of operation, the Iowa Mask Brigade used over 75 furnace filters. Today, the Iowa Mask Brigade consists of 35

volunteers who have collectively produced almost 8,000 masks since its inception in March.

One of those volunteers is Ray Getting, who handles much of the logistics within the Brigade. In a recent conversation, he mentioned everyone who has received a mask is so incredibly appreciative. The group maintains extremely high standards for quality, and if a mask wasn't perfect, it wasn't sent out. He's been able to send high quality masks to people he cares about in places he knows it's going to make a difference.

As the organization has grown, their mask-making has become more innovative. When the Brigade ran out of elastic bands for ear loops, they turned to hairbands. Today, they have purchased over 25,000 hairbands for their masks, and they have shared this technique, as well as many others they have developed, with other mask-making organizations.

The Iowa Mask Brigade has sent masks to people in need all over the United States. From the Iowa's Dallas County Hospital to San Antonio to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, for whom they have created a custom design to fit their preferences. Now, the Brigade mostly serves low income housing, hospitals, and nursing homes, such as the APEHA senior living apartments in Johnston, Iowa.

In honoring the Iowa Mask Brigade today, I want to underscore the values of hard work, dedication, persistence, and problem-solving that Iowans demonstrate in spades during this difficult time. As Connie Klug said, "A unique characteristic of Iowans is that we don't get defeated easily. We just went to work and overcame it. That to me is Iowans: we don't get discouraged; we just get to work. We're not helpless. We rolled up our sleeves and said, there are not problems that we can't figure out."

I am so proud to recognize the Iowa Mask Brigade for their outstanding work and their unwavering willingness to help all those in need. It is my hope that other individuals and organizations are inspired to take action of their own. The volunteers powering the Iowa Mask Brigade have not only given protective gear to people in need, but also instilled hope when we need it most. It is my honor to share the Iowa Mask Brigade's story and recognize the group as our Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING POET LAUREATE ROSA MARIA CEBALLOS DE LLANO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa Maria Ceballos de Llano on being named the City of Laredo's 2020-2022 Poet Laureate.

Rosa was born in Nuevo Laredo, México to parents Manuel Ceballos and Evangelina

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ramírez de Ceballos. She attended Colegio América Elementary School in Nuevo Laredo before attending St. Augustine High School in Laredo, TX, where she was class valedictorian. She would soon earn an Associate of Arts Degree from Laredo Junior College and then a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and History from Texas A&I University-Kingsville. Years later, she would continue her studies at Laredo State University where she earned a Master of Science in Secondary Education and Spanish.

In 1969, Rosa joined the Laredo Independent School District, where she taught for 39 years. Over the course of her time at Laredo ISD, she was known as an outstanding teacher and an inspiring person. She was an individual who dedicated her time to ensuring that her students gained an enriching education while always pushing them to challenge themselves with new experiences. For example, she sponsored study abroad trips to Spain, hosted oral Spanish poetry and prose contests, and created a Mother's Day program of original poetry and prose compositions. She would also have her students present their poetry to dignitaries honored at the annual LULAC Senior International. In addition to her work at Laredo ISD, she also served as an Adjunct Spanish Professor at Texas A&M International University for several years. She was also a Hispanic Studies PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University-College Station, where she passed all oral and written exams.

Rosa is also a renowned artist. Her poetry has given a strong and distinct voice to those in the border community. She understands the unique experience of Laredoans and brings that familiarity to a larger audience. I appreciate her work and the guidance she has given to countless students. Her work in the field of education is both moving and a reminder of how many lives can be touched by just one individual.

For her work, she has received numerous awards, including: Laredo Morning Times Woman of the Month, Cigarroa High School Teacher of the Year and the Raíces Award, Webb County Heritage Foundation Traditions and Folklore Award, El Mañana Literary Award, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Laredo's Golden Apple Award, Laredo Chamber of Commerce Bell Award, University of Texas Excellence in Teaching Award, and Texas Spanish Teacher of the Year. She was also inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rosa Maria Ceballos de Llano on this prestigious recognition and I wish her the best moving forward.

HONORING KARRIE PARDIECK

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to a dedicated public servant who has for two decades served the people of eastern Indiana with great care and devotion.

As she now retires with twenty years of service, I want to offer my wholehearted thanks to Karrie Pardieck for all that she has done for me, my predecessors and for Hoosiers across eastern Indiana.

Karrie Pardieck was first hired by my brother, Vice President MIKE PENCE, when he was elected to what was then the Second Congressional District of Indiana. As the Second became the Sixth, Karrie earned a reputation of putting Hoosier constituents first.

My staff knows that we have no higher priority than constituent services, and Karrie has been on the front lines of ensuring that Hoosiers were taken care of and their voices were being heard.

Undoubtedly Karrie has handled many thousands of cases in her area of expertise. In just the last two years alone, Karrie opened federal inquiries on behalf of more than 225 Sixth District Hoosiers. Time and again, I have heard from constituents who needed help with Social Security Retirement, Disability and Medicare. Many have reached out or sent letters saying that Karrie would always lead with a servant's heart, an eye for detail and a can-do attitude.

My immediate predecessor, Congressman Luke Messer, said upon the occasion of his retirement from this body stated that Karrie "made our office a better place to work, and she is a valuable member of our team."

For twenty years Karrie Pardieck has made this office better. For twenty years, she has been a valuable member of the Sixth District team.

As she now closes this chapter and departs from public service, I join my predecessors and the many lives she has touched as a Constituent Services Representative for Indiana's Sixth Congressional District in wishing Karrie Pardieck a joyous retirement.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to express my support of House Resolution 549, which I introduced along with my colleague, Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS, and is led in the Senate also in a bipartisan way by Senators JACKY ROSEN and MARCO RUBIO.

As the first woman to represent Puerto Rico in Congress, I take great pride in being a part of this initiative that seeks to eliminate barriers that prevent media diversity. I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to pay it forward, and work to ensure that minorities are represented in every sector of society whether it is in elected office, in businesses, in the military or in the media.

This resolution is simple, Mr. Speaker. It sends a strong message that we in Congress are united in this effort to encourage media diversity that will benefit Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life stay informed and civically engaged.

Whether through traditional outlets such as television, radio or newspaper, or through new technologies and digital platforms, media plays a critical role in our daily lives, influencing our perspective on almost every issue. By having access to independent, diverse, and local media contributors, our communities can be

exposed to different viewpoints providing them opportunities to contribute to the crucial debates facing our country.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, our nation is diversifying at a faster ratio than it was ever projected. Over the last decade, nearly 4 of 10 Americans identified with a race or ethnic group other than white. Yet, this is not proportionally reflected in media and communication occupations.

Fifty years ago, the Kerner Commission Report called for increased media diversity, citing that limited participation of diverse populations in media decision-making had negative economic and social cost for our society. And although some progress has been made, we can and we must do better.

Our nation is strengthened by diverse points of view, diverse talents, and a workforce that truly reflects our country's identity. We cannot wait fifty more years, we need to start now and promote an inclusive workforce, welcoming those who aspire to become journalists, correspondents, creators, directors, producers, programmers, distributors, behind the camera and on-air personalities.

This resolution empowers us with the ability to create a strategy, build coalitions, and work to remove the barriers to increase participation in this growing industry. We must also promote diversity so that more members of our communities can relate.

We have an opportunity here in Congress to lead the way, demonstrate our commitment to the American people that diverse representation in all aspects of American life are critical to a healthy, prosperous democracy.

Diversity is what makes this country rich. Our nation is comprised of people who represent a plethora of thoughts, heritage and upbringing that is not always represented in the media, making some of these groups invisible to others.

Media should be a reflection of the society they serve. Learning about other experiences, listening to different opinions, and getting to know other's backgrounds strengthens our nation and leads to inclusion.

REMEMBERING JEREMY DODD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 7th, I attended the funeral service of a dear friend and mentor. A complex, sensitive, intuitive observer of this human comedy we call life. Jeremy Dodd was a remarkable man. I include in the RECORD this brief introduction is his obituary written by his son, Owen, and a poem entitled, "The Dash."

In 1978, Jeremy and I worked down the hall from one another. I knew of him because his father was a United States Senator from Connecticut, who the Irish and Americans across the country had always taken great pride in his role in the Nuremberg Trials, and also his brother Chris, who at the time was the sitting member of Congress from the 2nd District and would go on to follow his father and become a United States Senator. Jeremy historically and culturally knew politics, he gained that knowledge from growing up in a family immersed in it. Beyond politics, he could conduct